

Dear Editor,

As you noted in PS 592, active duty Army units are supposed to have their rifles and machine guns gauged annually, while Army Reserve and National Guard are required to have theirs gauged every 2 years.

That's fine under normal conditions, but since 9/11 many Reserve and Guard units are doing much more training with their weapons. All of that additional firing means more wear and tear on the weapons. Problems develop that only gauging can catch in the early stages.

If that gauging has to wait 2 years, those problems aren't going to be caught in time to prevent damage to the weapon and possible injury to the soldier. So I suggest that Guard and Reserve units consider more frequent gauging if they do much firing.

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Equipment Concentration Site 125

Ft Bragg, NC

From the desk of the *Editor*

The small arms experts at TACOM-Rock Island agree with you totally. The 1-year gauging requirement for active Army and two-year requirement for Reserves and Guard is the minimum gauging required. Ideally, a unit should get their weapons gauged and inspected after every firing/training cycle and must do so before being deployed.